

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EUR-25 SCEM-02 INT-08 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1515

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS AMBASSADORS' REGIONAL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING APRIL 23 COURTESY CALL ON AMB SCALI, SWISS PERM OBSERVER TURRETTINI SAID HE PREPARING TO ATTEND LATE APRIL MEETING IN CAIRO OF SWISS AMBASSADORS TO ARAB COUNTRIES PLUS SWISS UN PERM OBSERVER. TURRETTINI SAID GROUP WILL DISCUSS ME PROBLEMS AND IN THIS CONNECTION ASKED IF USG PLANNED TAKE ANY INITIATIVE ON ME IN NEAR FUTURE. SCALI SAID USG STUDYING SITUATION WITH POSITIVE SPIRIT BUT PLANNED NO INITIATIVE FOR TIME BEING. AT PROPER TIME USG WOULD MOVE.
2. TURRETTINI ASKED IF RECENT PRESS DRAMATIZATION OF WELL AND LONG- KNOWN US ENERGY CRISIS WAS TO PREPARE US PUBLIC OPINION FOR CHANGE IN POLICY WHICH WOULD PERMIT SOME MOVE TOWARD ARAB POSITION. SCALI SAID ENERGY CRISIS WHICH WELL- KNOWN IS NOW POPULAR THEME WITH US PRESS JUST AS ENVIRONMENT POPULAR LAST YEAR. SCALI ADDED THAT AVAILABILITY OF OIL WOULD NOT BE DECIDING FACTOR IN HOW USG HANDLED ME PROBLEM.
3. COMMENTING ON RECENT SC ACTIVITY ON LEBANESE COMPLAINT, TURRETTINI SAID HE UNDERSTANDS SOME ARABS BILLING IT AS GREAT PROPAGANDA VICTORY. SCALI SAID OUR HOPE WAS THAT RECENTLY PASSED
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SECURITY COUNCIL RES WOULD STRENGTHEN HAND OF MODERATE ARABS. EGYPTIANS ESPECIALLY LOOKED FOR SOMETHING IN THE DEBATE BECAUSE OF THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT NO PROGRESS MADE ON ME PROBLEMS AFTER BOOTING OUT SOVIET ADVISERS. TURRETTINI ASKED IF SCALI

BELIEVED SOVIETS REALLY OUT OF AREA OR THAT EGYPTIAN ACTION MADE A DIFFERENCE. SCALI SAID NO, MORE SOVIET MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT IS NOW GOING TO SYRIA. TURRETTINI AGREED ADDING THAT HE BELIEVES SOVIETS DONT WANT TO RESOLVE ME PROBLEM AND HOPE TO CONTINUE TO KEEP AREA IN TURMOIL.

4. ON RECENT SC RES TURRETTINI NOTED THAT EVEN NORMALLY PRO-ISRAEL SWISS PUBLIC DISPLEASED BY OFFICIAL ISRAELI TERRORISM IN LEBANON. IN HIS OPINION ISRAELIS SHOULD BE LESS ARROGANT AND SLIGHTLY MORE LENIENT IF THEY WISHED SOLVE ME PROBLEM. TURRETTINI ASKED IF US AND ISRAELI SECURIITY INTERESTS IDENTICAL. SCALI SAID US AND ISRAELI INTERESTS NO IDENTICAL.

5. TURRETTINI THANKED SCALI FOR EXCHANGE AND PROMISED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM AFTER SWISS AMBASSADORS CAIRO CONFERENCE.

SCALI

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